

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BECKLEY CONVENED AT 6:30 PM ON JUNE 28, 2022, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

THOSE PRESENT: Mayor Rappold, Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump, City Attorney Bill File, and Secretary, Susan Miller. Council Members: Janine Bullock, Bob Canter, Cody Reedy, Tom Sopher, Robert Dunlap, and Kevin Price. The following Department Heads were present: IT Director Bill Kelly, City Controller Jessica Chandler, Deputy Chief Allard, Captain Thompson with BFD. Cucumber & Company and Journalist Josephine Moore were present.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Hunter.

The Mayor reminded the public that they will be able to make comments when invited to do so by either pressing \*3 on their phone and their call will be taken in the order it is received, or if viewing by computer or tablet, raising your hand by right clicking your name and choosing "Raise Hand". The public is invited to join in Council chambers or via WEB-X from their computer or by phone, using the weblink or phone number provided the day of the meeting on the City's webpage at Beckley.org, the City's Facebook page.

The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor asked those in attendance to join in singing happy birthday to Mr. File. Council dispensed with the reading and approval of minutes from the regular Council meeting dated June 14, 2022. Council unanimously approved the minutes as written on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Canter. Copies had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting.

Next, the Mayor opened the only proposal received, which was from Urban Design Ventures, LLC, for planning and consulting services for CDBG and other community development programs for FY 2022 through 2026. The proposal will be given to Recorder-Treasurer Billie-Trump and Grants Administrator Angela King to award at a future meeting. Billie Trump stated that the administrative costs can be adjusted off so they may not have been included in the proposal. He said that the administrative fees can total up to fifteen percent of the amount of the grant. The cover page and proposal are incorporated into these minutes.



Next, Mr. File summarized the Employee Longevity Resolution by reading paragraphs A-E. He said that the amount of any increase goes into effect on the anniversary date of employment. Mr. File clarified that this is not an automatic increase every year and it requires annual approval. The Mayor said that this is important to clarify because there have been times in the past when the City was not able to offer this. The resolution was unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Dunlap and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, Mr. File summarized the Bank Depository Resolution by reading the last four paragraphs of the resolution. The resolution was amended before approval to replace BB&T with Truist Bank. The amended resolution was unanimously passed on a motion by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilman Reedy. The resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Mr. File read by title and summarized an Ordinance Revising And Amending City Of Beckley Code Chapter 13 Standardizing The City's Annual Business License Fee And Updating Related Sections. Mr. File opened the public hearing. There were no comments. Mr. File closed the public hearing and explained that the ordinance standardizes the business license fee. City Controller Jessica Chandler was at the meeting to answer any questions regarding the ordinance. The City has standardized the annual fee for most businesses at \$15.00. Anyone conducting business in the City will be expected to pay this annual fee. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the revisions as described by Mr. File. The ordinance was unanimously approved on a motion made by Councilman Price and seconded by Councilwoman Bullock. The ordinance is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

Next, the Mayor discussed the poem written by Christine Hatfield Lilly titled "City on the Hill" and asked Council to consider adopting it as the official City poem. On a motion by Councilman Sopher and seconded by Councilman Price, the poem titled "City on a Hill" was adopted as the official poem of the City of Beckley. The poem is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: The Mayor said there will be a Resolution for Council to consider honorarily naming Raleigh Avenue “Jerry Rose Lane” on the July 12, 2022, agenda. Another item on that agenda will be the appointment of Arnold Lee Leftwich to the Board of the Beckley Housing Authority, replacing long time Board member Pete Torrico who asked that he not be reappointed. Councilman Canter asked the Mayor when Fruits of Labor (FOL) will open. The Mayor said that FOL plans to have a soft opening in early August.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Sopher shared photos with the Mayor and Council members of the playground equipment at Maxwell Hill Community Center. He asked the City to consider finding funds in the budget for new equipment and a basketball court there. Councilman Sopher said that the gates at the playground at Crescent Hill Elementary & Maxwell Hill Elementary often get locked after school and in the summer and kids do not have access to them. Councilman Reedy said that he agrees that a basketball court is much needed there. He said Cranberry Elementary is the only other place that is close by for kids to play on a playground. The Mayor said that Parks & Recreation Director Leslie Baker and Recorder-Treasurer Billie Trump will discuss this. Councilwoman Bullock said that she had also asked about new playground equipment for Barber Avenue and mentioned the possibility of a CDBG grant to fund it. Councilwoman Bullock asked the Mayor if there was any update on the vandalism to the water slide at New River Park. The incident was posted on Facebook today. The Mayor was not aware of this and said he will look into it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Price seconded by Councilwoman Bullock and unanimously approved by Council to adjourn at 6:56 pm.

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Mayor

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Recorder-Treasurer